

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 022229

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-STADIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT:HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS

REF: AMMAN 388

1. BEING ON THE SPOT, YOU ARE THE BEST JUDGE OF HOW TO HANDLE THE TACTICAL SITUATION RELATING TO THE HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS IN THE LIGHT OF JORDANIAN-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS AND OUR CURRENT DIFFICULT PROBLEM OVER HAWK FINANCING. WE ARE, HOWEVER, INCLINED TO AGREE WITH YOU THAT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT OUR POSITION SHOULD BE VOLUNTEERED AT THIS TIME, PENDING THE RETURN OF THE JORDANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION FROM MOSCOW AND SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF WHERE AND HOW FAST THE SOVIET OFFER IS GOING.

2. IF YOU ARE PRESSED IN THE MEANTIME, WE THINK YOU HAVE SOME POSITIVE CHIPS TO PLAY, INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS IN
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PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER PROVIDING SOME SUCH AIRCRAFT UNDER

FMS SALES OR CREDIT PROGRAMS, PROVIDED THAT WE AND JORDANIANS CAN REACH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON JORDANIAN ABSORPTIVE CAPACITIES. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, OF COURSE, THAT NO FORESEEABLE COMBINATION OF GRANT AND CREDIT WE MAY BE ABLE TO SECURE FROM CONGRESS OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO WILL COVER BOTH HEAVY-DUTY HELICOPTERS AND THE OTHER ITEMS THE JORDANIANS HAVE TOLD US THEY WANT. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THE JORDANIANS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON PRIORITIES.

3. AS FOR THE MUNITIONS CONTROL ADVISORY OPINION SENT TO SIKORSKY AND BOEING, WE ARE CONFIDENT OF YOUR ABILITY TO PREVENT HUSSEIN FROM DEVELOPING ERRONEOUS OPINIONS AS TO OUR VIEWS. WE FELT YOU NEEDED THAT AND THE OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED IN STATE 17807 AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE TWO AIRCRAFT COMPANIES SIMULTANEOUSLY HAD TO BE GIVEN A QUICK ADVISORY OPINION TO BACK UP ANYTHING YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD TO TELL THE KING ABOUT COMMERCIAL SALE POSSIBILITIES. WE REGARD THE MC DECISION AS BASICALLY A POSITIVE INITIAL SIGNAL. WE RETAIN AN OPEN MIND AS TO WHETHER SALE IS COMMERCIAL OR FMS AND ON QUESTION OF A DELIVERY OVER A STRETCHED-OUT TIME PERIOD. WE ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE: (A) WHAT MAY EMERGE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE JORDANIANS AND AIRCRAFT COMPANIES; OR (B) THE CONCLUSIONS THAT COME OUT OF THE JOINT STUDY EXERCISE WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING. KISSINGER

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